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BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON

Town Hall,
Lymington.
February, 1942.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF LYMINGTON.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Annual Report for the Year 1941

I have again much pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1941. Since the war the reports have been considerably reduced and therefore I am confining my attention to the more important aspects arising from the Public Health Services in the Borough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Details of Notified Cases.

Disease	No. Notified	Removed to Hospital		
		Langley	Setley	Southampton
Measles	306	-	5	2
Whooping Cough	58	-	1	1
Cerebrospinal Fever	2	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	5	2	-	-
Diphtheria	4	1	-	-
Tonsillitis (Notified Diph. not confirmed)	(2)	(2)	-	-
Enteric Fever	1	-	-	-
A.P.M.	2	-	-	2
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-
Other cases re- moved to hospital		-	3	1
TOTALS	384	5	9	6

Measles and Whooping Cough.

The number of notifications is due partly to the more effective compliance with the Regulations requiring the notification of these diseases, in addition a special circular was sent to General Practitioners drawing attention to the necessity for notification. The Lymington C.E. (Infants) was closed for two weeks owing to measles. Facilities have been provided by the County Authority for the issue of measles serum and a number of ampoules have been distributed at the request of doctors.

Cerebrospinal Fever.

Two cases have occurred in young children, this represents a decrease of two over the previous year.

Scarlet Fever.

All cases were mild and recovered uneventfully.

Diphtheria.

Two cases occurred in Pennington and one adult from Lymington, all cases were very mild, not previously immunised, and each recovered uneventfully. The remaining case was a soldier and he was treated by the military authorities.

Considerable progress has been made in Immunisation against Diphtheria and special attention has been given to the treatment of children at the local schools and at the Child Welfare Centres. A clinic is also held at the Masonic Hall every Tuesday morning. The following table indicates progress made and shows the number of children living in the Borough who have been immunised.

	Under 5 years	Between 5 & 15 years	Totals
Estimated pop. of children	1415	2045	3460
Number immunised prior 1940	26	381	407
" " in 1940	6	127	133
" " in 1941	520	1086	1614
1st. injections only 1941	2	38	87
Percentages of children treated	39%	73%	62%

During 1941 about 1300 children have been immunised by the Medical Officer of Health and about 300 by private doctors. Payments to doctors for immunisation work during the year totals £119.8.0d.

Enteric Fever.

One case notified, an old man living at New Milton. This man died and all necessary precautions were taken. No further cases were reported.

Anterior Polyomolitis (A.P.M.).

An epidemic of this disease occurred in the country as a whole during 1941. There were two cases here, one being severe, an adult person at Pennington who was taken to Southampton Hospital and removed later for Orthopaedic treatment. The other case was mild in a child at Pennington.

A number of consultations were held at the request of doctors for help in the diagnosis of doubtful cases of Infectious Diseases.

SCABIES

Treatment was started in April, 1941, and clinics were held every Tuesday morning at the Masonic Hall, Lymington, all cases being treated with Benzyl Benzoate emulsion. Mr. Downing Fullerton, the County Health Visitor and Miss Herriott Hill, together with Mr. Raw and Mr. Thomas have rendered valuable assistance in dealing with these cases. A system of notification was instituted and local doctors were circularised and asked to co-operate in this matter.

The following cases were treated at the Masonic Hall:-

Cases	No. of persons cured			Total treated
	By one treatment	By two treatments	By three or more treatments	
Men	4	2	-	6
Women	10	2	1	13
Children	32	18	1	51
TOTALS	46	22	2	70

Scabies Order, 1941.

The requirements cited in this Order were already being dealt with and it was not considered necessary to make any alteration in the existing scheme.

During the year representatives of outside authorities made visits of inspection to the Masonic Hall for information on our methods of treatment.

EVACUATION AND REFUGEES

All have been successfully dealt with at the Ashley School and Furzie Close.

SICK BAY

The sick bay in the Borough was closed in April and cases requiring treatment have been dealt with at the Sick Bay at Lyndhurst.

DISINFECTION OF BEDDING

A considerable quantity of bedding and clothing have been disinfected at Southampton and Ashurst. Bedding etc. from 18 premises has been so treated.

CASUALTY SERVICES

The following alterations have been made in the Casualty Services since 1940:-

New Milton and Island View 1st Aid Points have been upgraded.

Public Hall, New Milton and Masonic Hall, Lymington.

These have been fully equipped as Gas Decontamination Centres.

Milford Hospital. (Casualty Services only)

This will no longer perform major surgery owing to the difficulty in obtaining Medical Staff.

Invasion.

Close co-operation was effected between the army and other authorities by numerous consultations and discussions. A system of supplementary points and Good Samaritan Houses has been organised by the B.R.C.S. representatives, Mrs. Cobbe and Mrs. Coutts, and the whole scheme has been incorporated in the Casualty Service.

Minor casualties were dealt with at the 1st Aid Post following enemy action. Four cases received attention.

I should like to express my appreciation to all the Personnel in the Casualty Services who, by their combined efforts and enthusiasm, have kept the service at a high level of efficiency.

EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLIES

Efforts have been made to ascertain the situation of well water supplies which could be used in the event of an emergency and numerous inspections have been made. The following table indicates the position to the end of the year:-

District	No. of Wells	Analyst's reports		Not Analysed
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	
Lymington	19	5	2	12
New Milton	31	6	7	18
Milford-on-Sea	9	4	1	4
Pennington	13	-	2	11
Hordle	23	3	-	20
TOTALS	95	18	12	65

Samples of water for analysis were taken from those wells which, from inspection, were likely to prove satisfactory. Steps are being taken to obtain supplies of bleaching powders etc. for the treatment of water supplies should an emergency arise.

LYMINGTON TOWN SUPPLY

This is from the Corporation owned works at Anpress. Five samples from this supply were taken during the year, three reports satisfactory and two not up to standard for a public supply. The last report received was satisfactory.

Instructions have been given for the water to be chlorinated continuously.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A great deal of discussion in Council has taken place on this question and whilst the ideal arrangement would be weekly collection of household waste there appears little justification in war time to alter the present system of fortnightly collections. The general public are helping considerably by disposing of vegetable and other refuse in their gardens or by salvaging for animal feeding stuffs. The normal procedure was weekly collection of refuse and salvage mixed except in rural areas and the alteration was made for reasons of economy and the fact that there was less domestic refuse to collect.

Some difficulty would probably be experienced by some tradesmen if the new system was strictly adhered to, but in these cases special arrangements have been made, through the Borough Engineer, for more frequent collection of trade refuse.

Despite certain criticisms which have been made there have been very few complaints indeed and investigations following these do not reveal conditions which necessitate recommending more frequent collection of household refuse.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The completion of the new sewerage scheme has been held up owing to certain equipment being required for the pumping station at Keyhaven, when these parts are obtained the whole scheme can be put into operation. A fair number of houses have been connected to the main sewer during the year, but owing to labour difficulties and to the cost of the work, the possibility of the general connection of houses to the sewer, appears slight. The serious nuisances arising due to lack of proper drainage at the premises occupied by soldiers in Fernhill Lane, New Milton have now been remedied by connecting the three properties concerned to the sewer.

Urgent recommendations have been made for the connection to the sewer of two houses (Hainault and Lincludin, Lower Pennington), but in spite of this the Ministry of Health has refused to sanction this owing to lack of labour and material.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

Mr. Thomas, the Harbour Master, was appointed to assist in the Health Department and since February, 1941 has been a very great help in the work of the department. It is regretted that owing to the war it has not been possible to obtain the services of a qualified assistant, but as mentioned before the help of Mr. Thomas is much appreciated and relieves the position to a certain extent.

Owing to the war the routine inspections of premises, such as Dairies and Cowsheds, Factories and Shops have been reduced. This has been unavoidable owing to the extra duties entailed in the examination of water supplies for emergency use, treatment of scabies, diphtheria immunisations and the duties arising from the preparation of a scheme for the Decontamination of Food.

A scheme for the treatment of Food contaminated by gas has been prepared by the Senior Sanitary Inspector who was previously appointed Gas Contamination Officer. Personnel for the food squads has been recruited from the food shops in the Borough. In the beginning there were 21 members, but now owing to the call up for military service and to other reasons the number has been reduced to 11. The basic number required for the Borough is 8 leaving three reserves which is hardly adequate. The greater part of the equipment for this service has been obtained and a number of exercises have been carried out. The arrangements made for the treatment of gas contaminated foodstuffs are as follows:-

Decontamination site for liquid contaminated food. At the Newmil Garage, New Milton.

For Vapour Contaminated food. Arrangements have been made with Messrs. C. Ford & Co., Ltd. for the use of one of their marquees. This will be available should an emergency arise and will be placed on a site which is most convenient at the time.

Storage of treated foodstuffs. The pavilion, Sports Ground, New Milton.

Analysis. Examinations of suspected contaminated food will be carried out by analysts approved by the County Authority. In the case of Lymington Borough, Mr. N.H.J. Plummer of Wellworthy's Ltd., has very kindly offered to assist in this direction.

Special attention has been given to the provision of proper sanitary dustbins and enquiries have been made at 146 premises. As a result 114 premises have been provided with proper dustbins during the year.

This is a fairly large milk producing area and there are 90 registered dairy premises. The inspection of these places has not been sufficient, and there does seem to be a lowering of the general standard of cleanliness. This is more so in the case of the smaller dairies and is partly due to the owners not now being fully employed in their dairy work and to a general shortage of skilled dairy labour. Pressure is being brought to bear on the worst offenders and it is hoped the position will improve.

Arising under meat and food inspections the following were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Pigs	Heads	Tuberculosis	2
"	Part	"	8 lbs.
Bullock	Hindquarter	"	199 lbs.
"	Part	Bruising	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
"	Head & Offal	Putrefaction	1
"	Lungs	Tuberculosis	1
Tins of meat		Blown etc.	20 (62 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.)
Fish (various)		Decay	266 lbs.
Tins of milk		Leaking & Blown	108 tins.
Tins Tomatoes		Blown etc.	11 tins.
Margarine		Rancid etc.	33 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Butter		Rancid etc.	11 lbs. 11 oz.
Bacon		Rancid	59 lbs. 15 oz.
Eggs		Bad	87/8 doz.
Figs		Fermentation	56 lbs.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS

The shipping entering the port consisted of:-

Coastwise vessels - motor 78
Foreign vessels - nil

Details of Inspections and Action taken

Details	Inspections	Defects	Remedied	
			Informally	Formal Action
Dairies & Cowsheds	187	34	30	-
Slaughterhouses and food shops	173	3	3	-
Factories	63	6	6	-
Complaints & Nuisances	168	55	50	2
Drainage	134	28	24	-
Rats & Mice	42	11	9	-
Disinfections	55	-	-	-
Infectious diseases	71	-	-	-
Sanitary dustbins	151	135	114	-
Water supply	75	1	1	-
Water samples	26	8	5 (remaining 3 already connected to main).	-
Schools	55	-	-	-
Shops	25	6	6	-
Camping	11	-	-	-
Disinfestation	27	7	7	-
House repairs	74	14	10 (1 informal notice outstanding)	-
Diphtheria Immunisations	49	-	-	-
Decontamination	125	-	-	-
Evacuees & Refugees	26	-	-	-
Scabies	52	-	-	-
Unclassified	27	1	1	-
TOTALS	1616	309	266	2

GENERAL SURVEY

The past year has seen the immigration into the Lymington Borough of numbers of children rendered homeless by air raids on Southampton and Portsmouth. It was anticipated that movements of children from crowded cities into rural areas would bring about an increased amount of communicable diseases in the rural population. Statistics show a very large increase in measles and whooping cough, as however 1941 was only the second year of notification it is difficult to say whether this represents a true increase. Certainly notification in 1940

was very bad and from personal observation and enquiries there does not appear to have been any great increase in the two diseases in 1941. There has been no significant increase in any of the other notifiable diseases.

There is no doubt however that there has been a definite increase in impetigo, scabies and pediculosis, this can be definitely attributable to the shelter life which many of the evacuees have led and to the overcrowding now occurring in many houses. Although the requirements of the 1936 Housing Act are fulfilled overcrowding can still occur. It appears that now the population has become more or less stabilized, these conditions are on the decrease.

There has been no evidence in medical inspection that the physical health of the school children has suffered in any way.

As far as mental health is concerned, bed wetting appears to have increased, in the majority of cases this can be attributed to experiences under blitz conditions.

I feel that the high standard of public health in the Borough has been maintained despite war-time conditions. Although there have been very large movements of troops and civilians in and out of the district there has been no evidence of any serious epidemics.

The year 1941 has seen great strides made in bringing out the immunisation against diphtheria of the child population and it is satisfactory to report that about 78% of the school children in the Borough have been treated.

The number of cases of scabies appeared to be assuming large proportions at the beginning of the year but from the number of notifications and cases now being treated it appears that the disease has very much decreased. It is felt that the scabies clinic has been largely instrumental in bringing this about.

Representations made for a steam steriliser, improved office accommodation and departmental assistance were submitted to the Council, but owing to war conditions the Council were unable to grant these facilities. It is felt however, that improved office accommodation and additional departmental assistance are necessary if the work of the department is to be carried on efficiently. Discussions are taking place with the Ministry of Health and it is hoped that some improvement will be effected during 1942.

Finally I should like to express my very grateful thanks to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Raw, for the way in which he has co-operated in the work of the department and particularly in relation to the large amount of extra work entailed in the diphtheria immunisations and scabies scheme.

Yours faithfully,

W. HOBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

